NUMB. LXXIII.

The GUARDIAN.

——In amore hoc inſunt omnia——

Thurſday, June 4. 1713.

IT is matter of great Concern that there come ſo many Letters to me, wherein I ſee Parents make Love for their Children, and without any manner of Regard to the Seaſon of Life, and the reſpective Intereſts of their Progeny, judge of their future Happineſs by the Rules of ordinary Commerce. When a Man falls in Love in ſome Families they uſe him as if his Land was mortgaged to 'em, and he cannot diſcharge himſelf, but by really making it the ſame thing in an unreaſonable Settlement, or foregoing what is dearer to him than his Eſtate it ſelf. Theſe Extortioners are, of all others, the moſt cruel, and the Sharks, who prey upon the Inadvertency of young Heirs, are more pardonable than thoſe who treſpaſs upon the good Opinion of thoſe who treat with 'em upon the Foot of Choice and Reſpect. The following Letters may place in the Reader's View Uneaſineſſes of this Sort, which may, perhaps, be uſeful to ſome under the Circumſtances mentioned by my Correſpondents.

To NESTOR IRONSIDE, *Eſq;*

Venerable SIR, *From a certain Town in* Cumberland, *May* 21.

'IT is impoſſible to expreſs the univerſal Satisfa-'ction your *Precautions* give in a Country ſo 'far North as ours; and indeed it were impertinent 'to expatiate in a Caſe that is by no Means par-'ticular to our ſelves, all Mankind, who wiſh well 'to one another, being equally concerned in their 'Succeſs. However, as all Nations have not the 'Genius, and each particular Man has his different 'Views and Taſte, we Northerns cannot but ac-'knowledge our Obligations, in a more eſpecial man-'ner, for your *Matrimonial Precautions*, which we 'more immediately are intereſted in. Our Climate 'has ever been recorded as friendly to the Conti-'nuation of our Kind; and the ancient Hiſtories 'are not more full of their *Goths* and *Vandals*, that 'in Swarms over-ſpread all *Europe*, than modern 'Story is of its *Yorkſhire* Oſtlers and Attorneys, who 'are remarkably eminent and beneficial in every Mar-'ket Town, and moſt Inns of this Kingdom. I 'ſhall not here preſume to enter, with the ancient 'Sages, into a particular reaſoning upon the Caſe, 'as whether it proceeds from the cold Temper of the 'Air, or the particular Conſtitutions of the Perſons, 'or both; from the faſhionable Want of Artifice in 'the Women, and their entire Satisfaction in one 'Conqueſt only, or the happy Ignorance in the Men 'of thoſe Southern Vices which effeminate Man-'kind.

'From this Encomium, I do not queſtion but by 'this time you infer me happy already in the legal 'Poſſeſſion of ſome Fair one, or in a probable way 'of being ſo. But, alas! neither is my Caſe, and 'from the cold Damp which this Minute ſeizes up-'on my Heart, I preſage never will. What ſhall 'I do? To complain here is to talk to Winds, or 'Mortals as regardleſs as they: The tempeſtuous 'Storms, in the neighbouring Mountains, are not 'more relentleſs, or the Crags more deaf, than the old 'Gentleman is to my Sighs and Prayers. The 'lovely *Paſtorella* indeed hears and gently ſighs, but 'tis only to increaſe my Tortures; ſhe is too du-'tiful to diſobey a Father, and I neither able nor 'forward to receive her by an Act of Diſobedience.

'As to my ſelf, my Humour, till this Accident 'to ruffle it, has ever been gay and thoughtleſs, 'perpetually toying amongſt the Women, dancing 'briskly and ſinging ſoftly. For I take it, more 'Men miſcarry amongſt them for having too much 'than too little Underſtanding. *Paſtorella* ſeems 'willing to relieve me from my Frights; and by 'her conſtant Carriage, by admitting my Viſits at 'all Hours, has convinced all hereabouts of my 'Happineſs with her, and occaſioned a total De-'fection amongſt her former Lovers, to my infi-'nite Contentment. Ah! Mr. *Ironſide*, could 'you but ſee us in a calm Evening the Profu-'ſion of Eaſe and Tenderneſs betwixt us! The 'murmuring River that glides gently by, the coo-'ing Turtles in the neighbouring Groves, are harſh, 'compared to her more tuneful Voice: The happy 'Pair, firſt joined in *Paradiſe*, not more enamour'd 'walkt, more ſweetly lov'd! But alas! what is all 'this! an imaginary Joy, in which we trifle away 'our precious Time, without coming together for 'ever. That muſt depend upon the old Gentleman, 'who ſees I cannot live without his Daughter, and 'knows I cannot, upon his Terms, ever be happy 'with her. I beg of you to ſend for us all up to 'Town together, that we may be heard before 'you (for we all agree in a Deference to your 'Judgment) upon theſe Heads, Whether the Au-'thority of a Father ſhould not accommodate it 'ſelf to the Liberty of a Free-born *Engliſh* Wo-'man?

'Whether, if you think fit to take the old Gen-'tleman into your Care, the Daughter may not 'chuſe her Lover for her Guardian?

'Whether all Parents are not obliged to provide 'for the juſt Paſſions of their Children when grown 'up, as well as Food and Raiment in their tender 'Years?

'Theſe and ſuch Points being unſettled in the 'World, are Cauſe of great Diſtraction, and it 'would be worthy your great Age and Experience 'to conſider them diſtinctly for the Benefit of Po-